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**PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF  
WORKINGTON**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**PORT MEDICAL OFFICER**

**For the Year 1946**

BY

**ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.**

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*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall, Workington,  
February, 1947.*



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THE WORKINGTON STAR LIMITED.

## MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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Mr. C. BAIRD (Chairman).

Mr. E. BARRACLOUGH.	Mr. J. DOGGART.
,, A. V. CATTRELL.	,, A. HALL.
,, J. R. DAVIS.	,, J. POOLE.
,, S. COWEN.	,, D. VICKERS.

Mr. S. WALKER.

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JOHN R. COCKFIELD, *Clerk to the Authority.*

R. W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,  
*Port Medical Officer of Health.*

R. E. FLETCHER, M.B., CH.B.,  
*Deputy Port Medical Officer.*

R. JAMES, *Port Health Inspector.*

S. THOMPSON, *Assistant Port Health Inspector.*



## TOWN HALL,

## WORKINGTON,

February, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Workington  
Port Health Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1946.

The Report has been prepared on the lines required by the Ministry of Health as per Memorandum 302/S.A., dated December, 1946.

1: *Amount of Shipping Entering the Port  
during the Year.*

TABLE A.

			NUMBER	TONNAGE	No Inspected.		No. Reported to be Defective.	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	No. of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
					By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector				
Foreign	{	Steamers ...	95	158221	51	95	29	21	...	3
		Motor ...	8	10455	6	8	2	2	...	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign ...			103	168676	57	103	31	23	...	3
Coast-wise	{	Steamers ...	112	30895	...	101	19	16	...	...
		Motor ...	37	12955	...	30	2	2	...	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ...	8*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise ...			157	43850	...	131	21	18	...	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...			260	212526	57	234	52	41	...	3

\* (8 Trawlers for shelter.

## 2. *Character of Trade of the Port.*

### (a) *Passenger Traffic during the Year.*

Inwards 39. Outwards 9.

(b) *Cargo Traffic.*—The chief imports were iron ore and esparto grass, and the chief exports were iron and steel manufactures (rails, billets, etc.), tar, pitch and coal. Government stores were also imported and exported.

(c) *Foreign Ports from which Vessels arrive.*—North Africa, West Africa, Spain, Norway, Sweden, France, Egypt, and Australia.

## 3. *Water Supply.*

The Port and ships are supplied with water from Crummock Lake, being the same as supplied to the Borough of Workington. The character of the water is 1.25 degrees of hardness and is of exceptional purity proved by chemical and bacteriological examination several times during the year. There are no water boats and vessels are supplied from hydrants around the dock, there being sixteen such hydrants.

## 4. *Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945.*

The Regulations have continued to work smoothly.

### (1) *Arrangements for dealing with Declaration of Health.*

The Pilots are supplied with Declaration of Health forms, and a form is given to the Master of each vessel by the Pilot boarding off the Port prior to docking.

### (2) *Boarding of Vessels on Arrival.*

Every foreign-going vessel is boarded by an Official of the Port Health Authority immediately on docking, when the completed Declaration of Health is received.

(3) *Notification to the Authority of Inward Vessels requiring attention.*

Vessels requiring special attention are boarded off the Port. Notification is usually received from the Dock Office or Pilots.

(4) *Mooring Stations designated under Article 10.*

(a) Under Article 10 (2).

Workington Roads, off entrance to Port.

(b) Under Article 10 (1).

(i) Breasted off the Quay at the place of mooring, discharge or loading.

(ii) The allotted berth in the Prince of Wales Dock.

These mooring stations were agreed to by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise subject to the following understanding:—that the mooring place referred to at (a) is for ships “infected” or “suspected”, that at (b) (i) for ships unhealthy on account of typhus fever or small-pox, and that at (b) (ii) for all other unhealthy ships.

(5) *Standing Exemptions from the Provisions of Article 14.*

Exemptions have been granted in respect of ships with the following infectious diseases on board: Acute Polio-Encephalitis, Cerebro-Spinal Fever, Chicken Pox, Continued Fever, Diphtheria, Dysentery, Epidemic Infantile Paralysis, Erysipelas, German Measles, Malaria, Membranous Croup, Pneumonia (primary or influenzal), Relapsing Fever, Scarlet Fever, Trench Fever, Tuberculosis and Typhoid Fever, provided that the answers to questions in the Declaration of Health are in the negative and the ship has not called at an infected port or seaboard; and of vessels otherwise clean arriving from Ports in areas listed under Article 11.



(6) *Restrictions on Boarding or Leaving Ship.*

Article 16 of the Regulations continues to operate smoothly. No person other than the Pilot and Customs Officer is allowed to board or leave a vessel from a foreign port until it is free from control under these Regulations.

- (7) (a) No special premises or waiting rooms are provided for medical examination, which is usually carried out on the vessel.
- (b) Facilities for cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles are provided by the Port Health Authority.
- (c) The Authority have no special premises for the temporary accommodation of persons, but when it has been necessary to accommodate seamen during fumigation of a vessel arrangements have been made with the Port Missioner for accommodation at the Seamen's Institute.
- (d) Hospital accommodation is available for the treatment of infectious diseases at Ellerbeck and Gale-mire Isolation Hospitals.
- (e) Ambulances are available for transporting infectious and non-infectious patients.
- (f) Contacts of infectious diseases are kept under daily supervision. When persons leave a ship information of intended destination, etc., is obtained for transmission to the local authority of the area.
- (8) and (9) Bacteriological or pathological examinations, including examination of rats for plague, are carried out by Dr. J. S. Faulds, Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle.
- (10) *Venereal Diseases.*

Enquiries are made on all vessels, and printed cards are issued showing where free confidential treatment can be obtained. Treatment Clinics are situate at Whitehaven



and Carlisle, distances of 8 and 30 miles away, respectively. Those not wishing to travel that distance can visit a specially appointed Medical Practitioner at Workington between 9 to 10 a.m. daily excepting Sundays, and 6 to 7 p.m. daily excepting Sundays and Thursdays.

(11) *Interment of Dead.*

No difficulties have arisen during the year. Shipping Agents and Masters have given full co-operation. Mortuaries are available at the Workington Infirmary and Infectious Diseases Hospitals.

TABLE C.

*Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.*

Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Vessels concerned	Average Number of cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Malaria ...	...	2	1	9
Dysentery ...	...	1	1	...

Sickness was reported on arrival of twenty vessels, and in five instances "fever" was suspected by the respective Masters. In the latter cases medical examination revealed Influenza, Dysentery, Malaria, Tuberculosis and Tonsillitis (negative Diphtheria). The other cases of sickness reported comprised Rheumatism, Gastritis, Influenza, Mental Depression, Injuries, Scabies, Rupture and Pleurisy. Hospital or medical treatment was given in all cases.

Twenty-one cases of Venereal Diseases were reported and treatment was recommended.

Two notices were issued in pursuance of the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations.

### 5. *Measures against Rodents.*

All vessels are inspected for the presence of rats, particular attention being paid to vessels which may come from plague infected Ports. Where necessary trapping and baiting are carried out, and rat guards placed on all mooring ropes. The harbour, buildings, breakwater and foreshore have been periodically inspected. The type of cargoes (minerals) carried considerably minimises the risk of serious infestation.

Deratisation Certificates are examined, and seventeen Exemption Certificates were issued by this Authority during the year. One vessel O.H.M.S. was fumigated with Hydrocyanic Acid Gas owing to the presence of rats.

On five vessels the Deratisation Certificates were found to have expired. Rats were present and fumigation was required. The vessels on completion of discharge were returning to their home Ports for overhaul and/or dry docking so the Certificates were endorsed for subsequent fumigation. Precautionary measures (trapping, baiting and rat guards) were carried out during these vessels stay in Port.





TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the year.

Total number of such Vessels arriving	Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO 2.	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which trapping etc. were employed	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were not carried out
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	...
6	...	...	...	...	6	21	...

TABLE H.\*

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year.

Net Tonnage	Number of Ships	Number of Deratisation Certificates Issued						No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
		After fumigation with			After Trapping, etc.	Total			
		HCN.	Sulphur	HCN: & Sulphur					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8
Ships up to 300 tons	...	...	...	...	...	...			17
" from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	17	...	...	...	...	...			17
" from 1,000 tons to 3,000 tons		...	...	...	...	...			17
" from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons		...	...	...	...	...			17
" over 10,000		...	...	...	...	...			17
Total	17	...	...	...	...	...			17

6. *Hygiene of Crew's Spaces.*

TABLE J.

*Classification of Nuisances.*

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ...	175	1	26	22
Other Nations ...	59	—	7	11

7. *Food Inspection.*

No foodstuffs have been imported or exported during the year.

Foodstuffs supplied to ships are periodically examined. On one vessel  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons of rice was found heavily infested with weevil and was sent to a Ministry of Food Salvage Depot.

*General.*

For several years I have reported adversely on the living quarters for seamen on foreign-going and coastwise vessels. During the year some improvement has occurred on foreign-going vessels. There is, however, much room for improvement in crew's accommodation, and the Association of Port Health Authorities are very much alive to the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing, and I would welcome the early introduction of legislation for the provision of proper mess-rooms, bath-rooms with hot and cold water, separate sleeping rooms, locker accommodation, rooms for drying clothes, etc.

The temporary accommodation of seamen when ashore is also important. The Seamen's Institute, on the Harbour Side, does much to provide recreation and a change to seamen when ashore, but sleeping accommodation is very limited. Great difficulty has been experi-

enced in finding accommodation for men when vessels are being fumigated, or when seamen are convalescing, and the provision of more beds would be an asset.

I am pleased to record a reduction in the number of vessels found dirty or verminous, also a slight reduction in the number of cases of Venereal Diseases reported. The arrangements for treating these cases locally is an asset, but I should like to see legislation introduced enforcing treatment of persons affected, so as to successfully combat this disease.

During the year the carcasses of a porpoise, two sheep and one bullock have been removed from the foreshore.

I must again record my appreciation of willing co-operation given me by H.M. Customs, Dock Officials, Pilots, and my Staff in all matters.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*





